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Creation in Silence: The Woman Listening

By Meenakshi Verma

About the Artist

Gender: Woman



Meenakshi Verma is a doctoral research fellow at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India. Her research focuses on the psycho-spiritual analysis of Lalleshwari's Vaakhs and issues like post-traumatic-growth, the inner world of trauma, psychological and spiritual healing, existential risks, existential posthumanism, and transhumanism. She seeks to observe the various facets of spiritual evolution as a transhumanist scholar. She has received her MA degree from Banaras Hindu University in English. Some of her poems on similar themes have been published in journals like 'Volcano.' Following are the links to access some of her works: <https://writinginawomansvoice.blogspot.com/search?q=The+Rooster+>

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About the Painting

This painting, painted in February 2016, wishes to interpret how a woman can psycho-spiritually rise beyond her pre-defined identity—a victim of the malignant forces in society—by genuinely lending an ear to the complaints, fears, confusions, and other existential traumas within and patiently crafting her way to transcendence.

The silence of this Woman is not symptomatic of submission and endurance, but emergence and resilience. Even though she is ostensibly in an unsafe environment, characterized by the thin snake behind her, the unopened envelope, and the lack of materiality, they do not upset her. Their distance from the Woman, in addition to their frail appearance, indicates their powerlessness.

The *Tathagata* knows that the outside world cannot hurt her until she allows such malicious agents to violate her existence. The alchemic nature of her raised consciousness is transforming every impediment approaching her into a possibility, every foe into a supporter. And perhaps it is because of this realization that she can find her inner balance. Thus, she meditates, undisturbed, focusing within, and maintaining her composure despite the chaos around her.

The use of various symbols indicates the same. The silhouette of a swan enveloping the Woman on her right side represents her fecund feminine side. This zoomorphic symbol, along with

the snake in the left side (the masculine hemisphere), suggests the balance of *Shiv*¹ within *Shakti*². Furthermore, the nine circles, symbolizing creation, and the fact that all of them are ensconced within the inverted 'U' exemplify her eternal connection with the universal womb.

(However, the painting is open to other possible interpretations.)

Size: (painting size) 15 cm x 15 cm

(Frame size) 22 cm x 22cm

Material: Black Ink

Technique: Lino Printing.

(Which can be reproduced, however in limited numbers)

Price: 7,520 INR

(The picture of the painting is not crystal clear since it is framed in a glass.)

¹ Representative of the masculine.

² Representative of the feminine.

